VAA Newsletter

Vintage Aeroplane Association Of California, Inc.

President Connie Clark 310/835-2562 **Editor** Bill Mallory 805/389-2902

JANUARY 1998

VAAC OFFICERS FOR 1998

President	Connie Clark	310/835-2562
Vice President	Don Armstrong	818/241-2425
Secretary	Elaine Forker	818/343-4478
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December	Christmas Party, Proud Bird Restaurant, December 5, 6:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season. There were many Christmas parties this year, I'm sure, but one of the more special ones was our own VAA party at the Proud Bird. We had a larger group this year, and a very fun time. The food was as good as always, the good friends were so good to see, and we had some very nice gifts in the gift exchange. They were given anonymously, but I would like to thank someone for our great "Voyager" mug.

In November we had our Annual Election of Officers, and I would like to give a big Thank You to those members who help keep our club alive. I certainly appreciate all your help, and thanks also to Justin Wilde who has found some Speakers for us. Which includes Mark Hinsman who truly entertained us in November. Mark restores and maintains aircraft for Dave Tallichet, who many of you know also owns the Proud Bird, among many other restaurants. Those of you who have seen all of the great aircraft on display at the Proud Bird know that they are all plastic, right? But Mark told us that one of them is the real thing. It's the MIG. Dave owns approximately 65 aircraft, so you can see Mark keeps busy. In fact one year Dave brought a Tiger Cat, we believe to the Hawthorne Air Faire. Several days after the event the airplane was still there. The airport called Dave and said it is not a problem, but we wondered when you were going to fly out your aircraft. Dave said, "Oh, is that where I left it."

Mark told us a similar story of Dave asking him to have a certain pilot fly a P-51 to an Air Show — only the P-51 was not there! Mark had to track that one down. It seems that the last pilot to fly it took it home rather than leave it unattended. Mark told us so may stories — such as crashing 10 times, one of them into the water on approach to Torrance. He also flew the Memphis Belle and flew at 1000 feet down Hollywood Boulevard for a Desert Storm Troops Celebration. Another fascinating event he was involved with starred a stunt man who was to bail out at 18,000 feet handcuffed and inside a jail cell. They dropped 4 cages in practice drops and the chute failed each time. The stunt man said no way to jumping, but the promoter said yes, so jump he did. The stunt man got out of his handcuffs and out of the jail cell so he could put his parachute on, which was clipped to the outside of the cage. But the cage created a vacuum which caused his altimeter to read wrong. He popped his chute late — one swing and he was down — safely thankfully. Mark and his wife Stephanie joined some of us after the meeting at a nearby restaurant, and Mark was still telling stories! Such a fun couple.

We will have a special speaker this month, one we have been trying to get for awhile now — our own John Underwood. This is sure to be a good meeting.

JOHN UNDERWOOD TO SPEAK AT JANUARY MEETING

It is with pleasure that we announce that our own John Underwood will be our speaker this month. His subject will be the history of the Stinson Aircraft, which includes the 2 Stinson sisters. This is sure to be a very interesting meeting, and it is always so good to hear John speak. He is so knowledgeable John will be showing color slides of the airplanes. What a great way to start out the new year of 1988, hope to see you all there. Remember, Glendale College, January 16 at 7:30 pm. If anyone needs directions to the meeting place, call Connie Clark at 310/835-2562.

HAWTHORNE AIR FAIRE

We have just learned that there will be no Hawthorne Air Faire this year. This is sad news for those who always enjoy the event. The City is suffering financial problems and the Air Faire must go. (Connie Clark)

KNX CITIZEN OF THE WEEK

What a great surprise it was to find out that our own Dave Bean was selected as a KNX Citizen of the Week. The person who nominated Dave, anonymously, certainly knew about all the good things that Dave is involved in. Dave flew B-25 Bombers in WW II, and after the war he flew F-86's with the Air National Guard in Ontario. At present he is a pilot with Angel Flight, and gives talks on Angel Flight to Civic groups. He volunteers as a tutor in the 3rd grade at a Torrance Elementary school, is Treasurer of the South Bay Athletic Club and writes the Newsletter for the Civil War Roundtable. Dave and Leo Gay were among the Founders of the Western Museum of Flight at Hawthorne Airport, where Dave was on the Board of Directors. As if that isn't enough, Dave started his own business after retiring from Northrop. But most important — he arranges for our group to have a wonderful get-together at the Elks Club each year! Congratulations Dave, you certainly deserve the honor. (Connie Clark)

FLY-OUT

Our Fly-out to Oceano Airport was so much fun we are hoping to do this on a regular basis. On Sunday, February 1st, lets all meet at Palm Springs Airport to visit the new Aircraft Museum and have lunch at the Airport. This time of the year, this needs to be weather permitting. And this will be your only notice, as this will occur before the next newsletter is out. We should all meet by Noon, and we need to know who will be coming, as we may be renting a car to transport people to the museum. It's about a four block walk as I understand it. The person to contact is Jimmy Green at 310/538-4577. You can also contact him the night before if there is a question of the weather — for a go or a rain date. The rain date will be the next Sunday, February 8th. But let us know if you are interested in this trip so we can make plans.

When you are on approach to Palm Springs, (126.7) tell them that you want to park at Millionaire. ATIS is 118.25 - Ground 121.9 - VOR 115.5, field elevation 426 feet. We know you will have all of this info yourself, but Jimmy has a great system of keeping track of nearby airports that he will share with us, and this just shows that he has it all at his fingertips. Remember to call Jimmy if you are going, especially since we may go to Chino if just the pass is bad. (Connie Clark)

FROM THE EDITOR

Well, here it is, another year, time sure flys doesn't it? I also want to thank all of those that have helped make the VAA one of the best clubs. In addition to Justin, I want to again thank Don Armstrong for his seeking out of speakers for us.

Does anyone have any ideas on how we might help Hawthorne put on the Air Faire? I realize that this year is out, but maybe someone might have an idea to help them in the future. I hate to see this event go, it has been one of the premier shows in the past. Shows to go ya, people just don't have the interest in aviation that they had in years gone by.

Read in the Times of the passing of another old time aviator. A. Harold Bromley passed away December 20 at age 99. He was an American that joined the Canadian army at age 15, eventually becoming a Lt. in the

RAF. In 1928 he became a test pilot for Lockheed. He flew with Amelia Earhart and Wiley Post among other greats. Bromley was the first to attempt a Transpacific Flight. His first attempt resulted in a crash on the runway at Tacoma. He later tried it leaving Japan but after 25 hours, halfway to the Aleutians he had to turn back because of fog and nausea from gas fumes. He never tried it again, instead he flew mail from El Paso to Mexico City and worked as an CAA Inspector at Oakland. In the 50's he retired to Palm Springs and worked as a real estate broker and grew dates and grapes.

Since we are starting a new year, let me remind you that dues are due now. Just look at your mailing label, the date your dues are due is on it. I hope to be able to write a little note to all of you that are really behind.

Also, remember that the newsletter is an effort of several people. We try to put it in the mail so it gets to you at least 4 or 5 days prior to the meeting. Sometimes this does not always work out. You need to remember, the general meetings occur on the third Friday of each month in which they occur. Also, there is a calendar in the front of each letter with the events listed. If the newsletter gets to you late, please try and understand.

Several of you have asked me to print a list of surviving War Birds. This is a list similar to the one published in the Confederate Air Force Newsletter. I hope to have it ready for the next issue. The number is changing almost constantly with the loss of some, and the appearance of others (especially from the CIS).

Also, I am revising the VAA membership roster and will have it ready in a short while. When it is done if you want one you will just need to send me a SASE and I will get it to you.

Again, thank you to all that have helped me during the past year. I truly appreciate it.

COMING EVENTS

Dinner and dancing at the Elks Club in San Pedro on Sunday, February 22, at 5:30 p.m. More info in the next newsletter, but put in on your calendar now. You don't want to miss this fun event, and the wonderful view from the Elks Club.

BADGES

If you show up at a meeting without a badge it will cost you a whopping 25 cents. Dick Beagle the badge maker has moved and we also have a phone for him.

Dick Beagle
5521 Western Ave.
Buena Park, CA 90621
714/671-1878

COVER PHOTO: COURTESY OF HAL SANDERS. THIS WAS ONEOF MANY HE GAVE ME FROM THE SANTA PAULA OPEN HOUSE. WE WILL RUN MORE IN THE FUTURE.

The reason lightening never strikes in the same place twice is the same place isn't there the second time.

Mrs. Maggie Davis Life
2001 Pan American Plaza
Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101

Dated Material

William L. Mallory
1376 Saturn Ave.
Camarillo, CA 93010

Vintage Aeroplane Association Of California Inc.

GENERAL MEETING
GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
JANUARY 16, 7:30 P.M.

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

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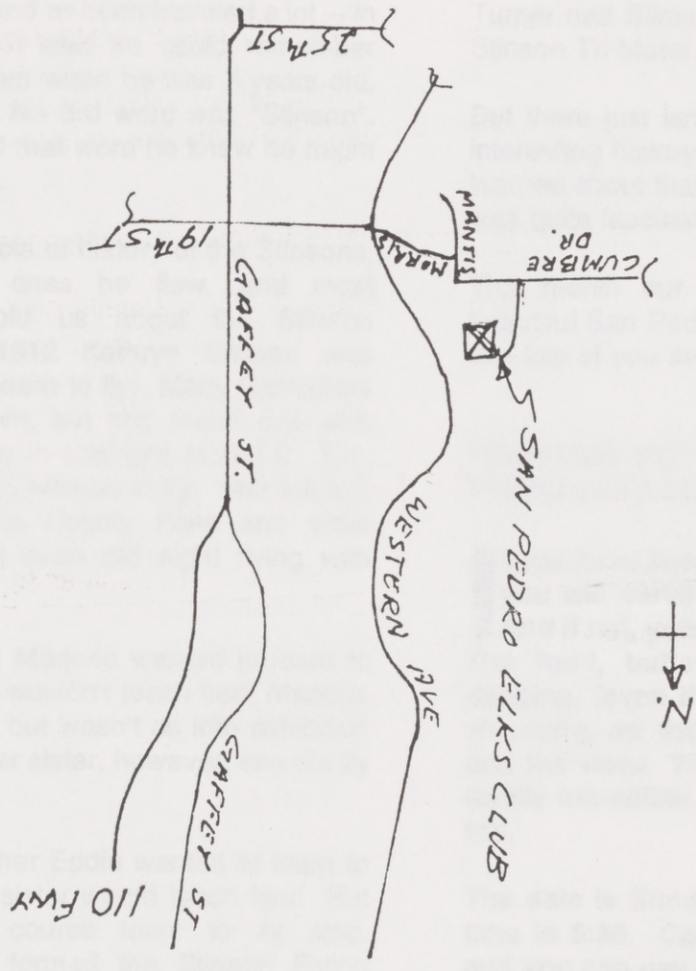

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Stinson School.

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Treasurer/Membersh

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

We had a wonderful turnout for January, and I know it was because of our guest speaker, John Underwood. He is so knowledgeable, and presented a great slide show for us on the Stinson Aircraft.

His Dad was the Founder, Engineer and Director of Research of the American Sterilizer Co., and as such traveled a lot — in Stinsons. John said he could remember some things from when he was 3 years old, and he is sure his 3rd word was "Stinson". When he heard that word he knew he might get to go flying.

John gave us lots of history of the Stinsons, including the ones he flew, and most interestingly told us about the Stinson Sisters. In 1912 Kathryn Stinson was determined to learn to fly. Many Instructors turned her down, but she found one who would teach her in a Wright Model B. She was only the 3rd women to fly. She booked engagements at County Fairs and other exhibitions and even did night flying with flares.

Then her sister Marjorie wanted to learn to fly, but Kathryn wouldn't teach her! Marjorie did learn to fly, but wasn't as into exhibition flying as was her sister, however, she did fly the mail.

Next, their brother Eddie wanted to learn to fly, but neither sister would teach him! But Eddie did of course learn to fly also. Together they formed the Stinson Flying School. Their Mother managed it and Marjorie taught flying. Eddie was the mechanic.

For those of you who live too far away to come to meetings, I wish I could tell you so many of the things that John told us — such as the fact that Kathryn went to Canada to do exhibition flying, and became known there. Then when Canada needed their pilots trained, they sent them to Texas to the Stinson School.

Eddie Stinson flew in the Ford Tour in 1928. This was when Ford wanted to get into aircraft and ultimately developed the Ford Tri-Motor. He also set an endurance record for time aloft.

Amelia Earhart flew in John's Dad's Stinson. General Patton owned a Stinson and thought the Army should buy some. The British had Stinsons at Dunkirk. Pancho Barnes had a Stinson. Howard Hughes and Roscoe Turner had Stinsons. Wallace Beery had a Stinson Tri-Motor.

But there just isn't room to tell you all the interesting history of the Stinson Aircraft we learned about that evening. I can only say it was quite fascinating.

This month our Social Activity is at the beautiful San Pedro Elks Club. We hope to see lots of you there.

FEBRUARY SOCIAL TO BE AT SAN PEDRO ELKS CLUB

If you have been to this event in the past you will certainly want to come again. And if not, you have missed a lot of fun. The food, buffet style, the music, the dancing, (even if you don't dance its fun watching, as they do fun dances there) and the view! The view has always been totally incredible. Lets hope for this year too.

The date is Sunday, February 22nd. The time is 5:30. Cost is $13.50 per person, and you can pay Bill Mallory upon arrival. We would truly appreciate checks made out to VAAC or exact change.

Please RSVP to Connie Clark at (310) 835-2562 by February 15, so we can let the Elks Club know how many tables to reserve for us. See enclosed map for directions.

EARLY AVIATORS PASS AWAY

More early aviators passed away recently

Long time Glendale resident and early pilot and designer Volmer Jensen passed away recently.

Volmer was known and loved by many. Your editor used to have Volmer talk to his A&P classes, and he often demonstrated his hang gliders and/or showed movies. He is probably best known for his designs of Seaplanes. Volmer truly tried to make flying possible for all by keeping the costs down.

Retired Major General Ralph Smith, was the oldest surviving general officer of the U.S. Army. He was 104 at the time of his death in Palo Alto.

He began his career in 1916 under Gen. John J. Pershing in an expedition against "Pancho" Villa.

He fought in Europe in WWI and led the 27th Infantry Division in WWII.

He was taught to fly by Orville Wright, and became the 13th person in the United States to earn a pilot's license.

VAA member Fred King also passed on recently. He was a fighter pilot in WWII and had talked to the group about his days as a P-47 pilot.

SUPER BOWL

Most of you think about which team is going to win when we talk about the Super Bowl, but quite a few pilots have other things to consider. We've reported earlier that Mike Walsh has been towing Banners, and this year he was one of 35 to 40 Banner towers at the Super Bowl. They were all under close contact with the tower, and only about 13 were allowed in the air at one time.

There were also five Blimps there. They would follow each other and then all turn and head towards you. Mike said it was really impressive. Included were the Goodyear Blimp, the Virgin Atlantic Airways Blimp, the red Russell Stover Blimp, Budweiser, and one other. (probably the Fuji ed.)

Look at how much fun you can have when you retire early and need something to keep you busy! (Connie Clark)

CABLE AIR SHOW

Cable Airport takes chances on the weather every year, holding their Air Show so early in January. Usually it works out, even as it did this year, despite morning rain on Saturday and questionable clouds all weekend.

We saw several club members there, including Mike Walsh and Elmer Ward. Elmer flew over all the way from Chino with Mike in his Stearman. On the flight over, Elmer asked "Are we there yet?" "Have we even left the field yet?" Elmer is just spoiled, he's used to flying his P-51 Mustang.

And then would you believe — Frank Vranicar in handcuffs! It seems that Frank flew in his Cessna Bird Dog complete with mock armament, and someone called the Bomb Squad. They wanted to confiscate all of his fiberglass replica armament, but finally they only took his mock hand grenades which were on a military type vest to go with the military theme. It seems there is a new law against owning these items, as the wrong type of people are refilling them to make real weapons again. Actually, the Bomb Squad didn't use the handcuffs on Frank, it was done by the Pacific Flyer who wanted a fitting picture to go with their article on the happening.

Frank, Mike Walsh, Mac MacCauley and Jimmy New flew several formation fly-bys, complete with smoke. It looked great guys. (Connie Clark)

TWO EAA CHAPTERS TO HAVE FLY-INS

EAA Chapter 1 at Flabob Airport will hold a Fly-in February 21 and 22. This is sure to be a great event.

While it is still a long way off, you might want to mark your calendars for the Camarillo EAA Fly-in. It will be June 20 and 21. This is also one of the best shows in the area, and usually held in conjunciton with the Southern California Wing of the Confederate Air Force. Hope you can make one or both of these.

GETTY MUSEUM

Connie Clark has made contact with a person that charters a bus to the Getty Museum. He has spaces open for August 1. The bus leaves Northrop at 10:00 and returns around 5:00. The cost is $12.75 per person. If you are interested, call Connie as soon as possible so that she can notify him. Also, invite your friends, they need not be VAA members.

This may be one of the best ways to see the Getty Musuem. I know you have read about the parking problems etc. This bus takes you to the door, no muss, no fuss.

FROM THE EDITOR

I want to start out by thanking Dave Bean for once again reserving the Elks Club for us. This is one of the high points of the VAA social year. In fact, thanks to all who open their homes for our social events.

For those of you that receive National Geographic, if you look on page 121 of the January issue, you will see a picture of Amelia Earhart. Credit is given to the photographer: Albert Bresnick. He was the official photographer of Amelia Earhart. For those of you that are not aware of it, Albert and his wife, Gabrielle were members of VAA until his death several years ago. Gabrielle is still an active member

Now to the really serious stuff. Dues are due now for many of you. Look at the mailing label, the date on it is the date of your current expiration. The dues is still $10.00 per couple, one of the best deals you will find.

Also, I make my usual plea for pictures, articles or general information to include in the letter. It makes it so much easier on me if I have material to include.

In the last issue, I mentioned that I was working on a new VAA roster. I am still working on it and as soon as it is ready I will notify you and you can receive one free.

Also, I am still working on the War Birds information and should have it ready by the next issue of the letter.

MARCH GENERAL MEETING AT GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Our next General Meeting will be at Glendale College on March 20 at 7:30 pm. We will have an interesting speaker, one you will not want to miss. Mark your calendars now.

BADGES

Badges are available from:

Dick Beagle
5521 Western Ave.
Buena Park, CA 90621
Phone: (714) 671-1878

Price is $5.00 per badge.

A day without sunshine is like, well night.

Save the whales – collect the whole set.

Seen it all, done it all, can't remember most of it.

How much deeper would the ocean be without sponges?

Picture this month: another one contributed by Hal Sanders from the Santa Paula open house. Thanks Hal.

92101-1636 27

Mrs. Maggie Davis Life
2001 Pan American Plaza
Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101

Dated Material

William L. Mallory
1376 Saturn Ave.
Camarillo, CA 93010

Vintage Aeroplane Association Of California Inc.

BUFFET AT THE SAN PEDRO ELKS CLUB
FEBRUARY 22, 5:30 P.M.

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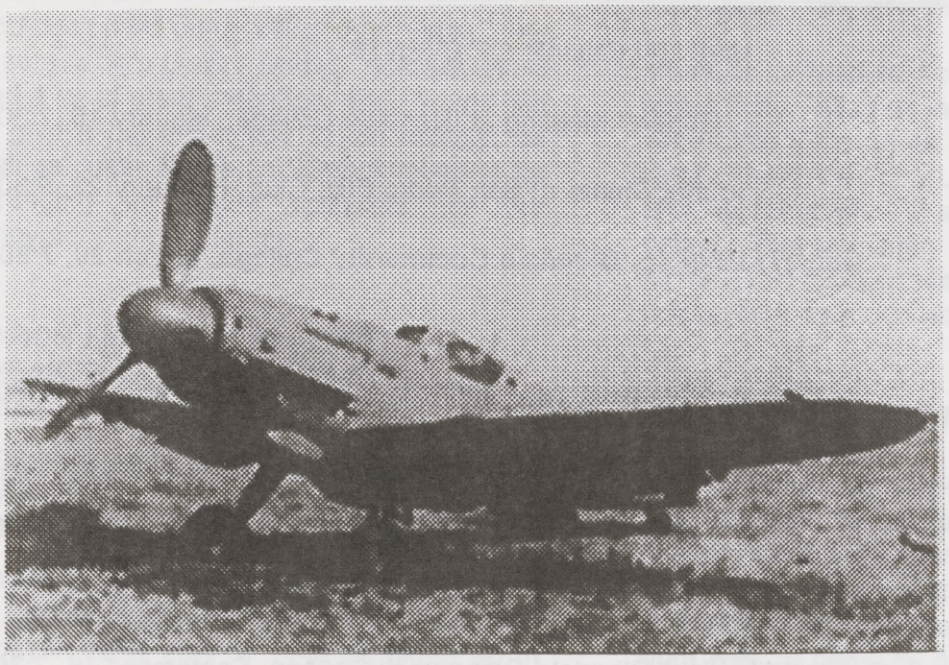

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

We had a lovely evening at the Elks Club last month. Not as many members as RSVP's, but a nice turnout regardless. Where were you guys? The night time view was as glittering as ever, but since the weather was not windy as it has been in the past, we couldn't see the snow-capped mountains or downtown L.A. Too many clouds in the way.

The food was good as usual, and the price was definitely right. The band was enjoyable and it was fun watching the dancers. You can tell that many of them have had a lot of practice like our own members Jimmy and Billy Green. They certainly can dance!

Thank you so much Dave Bean for arranging this great evening for us.

Please take special note of our April Pot-Luck. We hope this will be something interesting and different.

And don't miss our speaker this month. This is sure to be a great meeting. Actually we've had a lot of great meetings, and I would like to give a big thank you to Bill Mallory, as well as Justin Wilde and Don Armstrong for arranging for these speakers for our enjoyment and enlightment.

AARON FINKEL TO BE GUEST SPEAKER AT MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Aaron Finkel was a stocky and cheerful radio component salesman, a former U.S. Air Force fighter pilot whose friends continued to call Red even as his hair began to fade and recede. One night in early May of 1948 he woke up in his small Brooklyn apartment to find a stranger sitting on his bed. "I would like you to go to Palestine to be a fighter pilot. How much would we have to pay you?" the man asked in broken English. (An excerpt from "No Margin For Error, The Making of the Israeli Air Force" by Ehud Yonay.)

You will have to attend the March General Meeting to hear the rest of the story. We are most fortunate to have Arron Finkel talk to us about his days in the yet-to-be formed Israeli Air Force. Listen to him tell us about delivering the first fighters from Czechoslovakia to Palestine and other tales of his fighter pilot days.

Don't forget, March 20, 7:30 p.m. at Glendale College.

TONY LeVIER PASSES AWAY

Yet another aviation legend has left us. Famous Lockheed Test Pilot and VAA member Tony LeVier has passed away. He was 84 years old at the time of his death. All of the VAA family extend their regards to Neva and family.

Many of us tried to figure out what to say about Tony. All of us that knew him knew of some little thing about Tony that we would like to share but John Underwood said it all and said it best. I am including John's article, "Remembering Tony LeVier" in its entirety just as John sent it to me. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

FEBRUARY FLY-OUT REPORT

The February 1 Fly-Out to PSP was enjoyed by all of those who were fortunate enough to be there. What a thrill it was when the tower cleared all the aircraft for the formation takeoff. And the flight was so beautiful as we played among the flock of fluffy sheep-like clouds. The kind that non-fliers speak of as whipped cream and they envy those of us who know they're nothing more than aerial fog.

The Palm Springs Museum is so unique in that all it's aircraft **FLY** and they are extremely pristine examples of WWII combat equipment.

Fortunately, all the attendees were ambulatory, but, if they weren't Millionaire Aviation had cart service to and from the plane and van service to and from the Museum. Since they could all walk the quarter mile distance, they did. It was such a beautiful day for the walk anyway. Jimmy's guests were Lu and Bernie Pettijean, fellow dancers and jazz fans who do not fly. However, Bernie is a Docent at the Santa Monica Museum of Flight and, was an aircraft mechanic in the Navy so his head and heart were in the same place as the rest of ours. By the way, Bernie works on Thursdays, so if you are going there, go on Thursday and say Hi.

After a really fine, leisurely, inexpensive lunch at Cactus Jack's, next door to Millionaire, everyone climbed in and climbed out to return in the same beautiful sky, though relighted by the afternoon sun for variety, creating some breathtaking views of the reflections from the lakes and the Pacific on the homeward trip.

There were a turnout of one aircraft who all said they had a fabulous time. It was really good enough to do again and Connie and Billy said that they want to go when they don't have family obligations.

Jimmy and Billy are planning to go to the Chino Museum on April 12. They will be at Flo's for breakfast at about 10 or as soon as they have 1200 feet and 3 plus miles at CPM/LGB/HRR/and CNO. After breakfast they're going over to the museum with guests, Jim and Dot Uhl, a jazz writer and wife. It might be fun to join us for one or both activities.

See you somewhere. (Jimmy and Billy Green)

WINGS AND WHEELS

The date is July 10, 11, and 12 this year. There is not much to report yet, but one thing we have wanted to mention. We are glad to have this event so popular, but we are concerned that it is getting too big. While at this time we are not limiting airplanes or horseless carriages, or anyone in VAA of course, we would like to limit car clubs who have not attended before. So in talking to friends, remember this is an Invitation Meet. We need to stop spreading the word — for now anyway. (Connie Clark)

FROM THE EDITOR

The dues are coming in at a good pace. Remember, look at your label, the date on the label is the expiration date of your current membership. Also, remember the amount. It is $10.00 per couple per year. I am getting checks for all kinds of odd amounts, in which case I just extend your membership beyond the normal one year. I don't like doing this since it puts your renewal at a date other than January 1.

I have the new membership roster ready. Send me a large SASE and I will send you one. Also, I have the Warbird Inventory ready. This is a listing of all the propeller driven Warbirds of WWII, US and foreign that survive. It is a really complete listing that gives the disposition of the remaining aircraft, flyable, restored, in museum, etc. and the total number of each produced.. The list is still current with the exception of the P-38 lost in Oregon, the Me 109 "Black 6" lost in England (which will be restored) and possibly a few others. This list is from the publication "Gallant Warriors" by Dennis Bergstrom and is reprinted with his permission.

Thank you Dave Bean for once again setting up the San Pedro Elks Club for us for our February social. If you didn't make it, shame

on you. This is always a great event.

Thanks to Jimmy and Billy Green for setting up the fly-outs. Maybe when the weather gets nicer we can have more participation. Many of you have asked in the past if we can have a VAA fly-out to some place. Well, here is your chance to participate in one. Keep watching for more announcements.

Just when you think you have seen it all. In the February 9th issue of Aviation Week & Space Technology on page 93 is a picture of a QF-106 being towed by a C-141A. You have to see this to believe it. This is a test to determine the concept of towing a launch vehicle to altitude before lighting the engines. For those of you that like data: the tow line is 1000 feet long, 0.75 inches in diameter and has a load test of 60,000 pounds. The QF-106 weighs about 30,000 pounds at take off. This test is being conducted at the Dryden Test Center. Brings back memories of the B-36 tests and the wing-to wing tests of the late 40's and early 50's. Interesting anyway

You may have noticed, I have not been putting in a schedule of the local airshows. The reason being WEATHER. Many of you said you appreciated the schedule. If you want me to I will start putting it in again as soon as we get out of the rainy season.

COMING EVENTS

This is going to be a new outing for us. It will be at the home of Bob and Vickie Trepanier in Alhambra. They are members of the Horseless Carriage Club and also collectors extraordinaire!

We all be joining with members of the Horseless Carriage Club, and this could be a good opportunity to encourage more of them to come to Wings and Wheels.

Bob and Vickie had been talking about a tour in the old cars, but now they feel this will not work out. Bob has several antique busses. This will be on Sunday, April 26 at noon, so that we will have time to eat, enjoy the collection, and possibly have rides.

BADGES

The Sergeant-at-Arms has promised me fines are going to be imposed on anyone not wearing a badge from now on. They can be purchased for $5.00 each from:

Dick Beagle
5521 Western Ave.
Buena Park, CA 90621
Phone (714) 671-1878

ACTUAL CLASSIFIED ADDS

Lost: Small Poodle. Reward, neutered like one of the family.

Dinner special: Turkey $2.35; Chicken or Beef $2.25; Children $2.00

Tired of cleaning yourself? Let me do it.

Now is your chance to get your ears pierced and get an extra pair to take home too.

COVER PHOTO

Sorry for such poor quality in the picture. This is a Czech version (AVIA S-199) of the ME-109, called the Czech Knife by the Israeli's at a base in Israel about 1948. This type was flown by the infant IAF for a while. Notice the very large propeller needed to accept the Junker Jumo engine.

Vintage Aeroplane Association Of California Inc.

William L. Mallory
1376 Saturn Ave.
Camarillo, CA 93010

Dated Material

Mrs. Maggie Davis Life
2001 Pan American Plaza
Balboa Park
San Diego, CA 92101

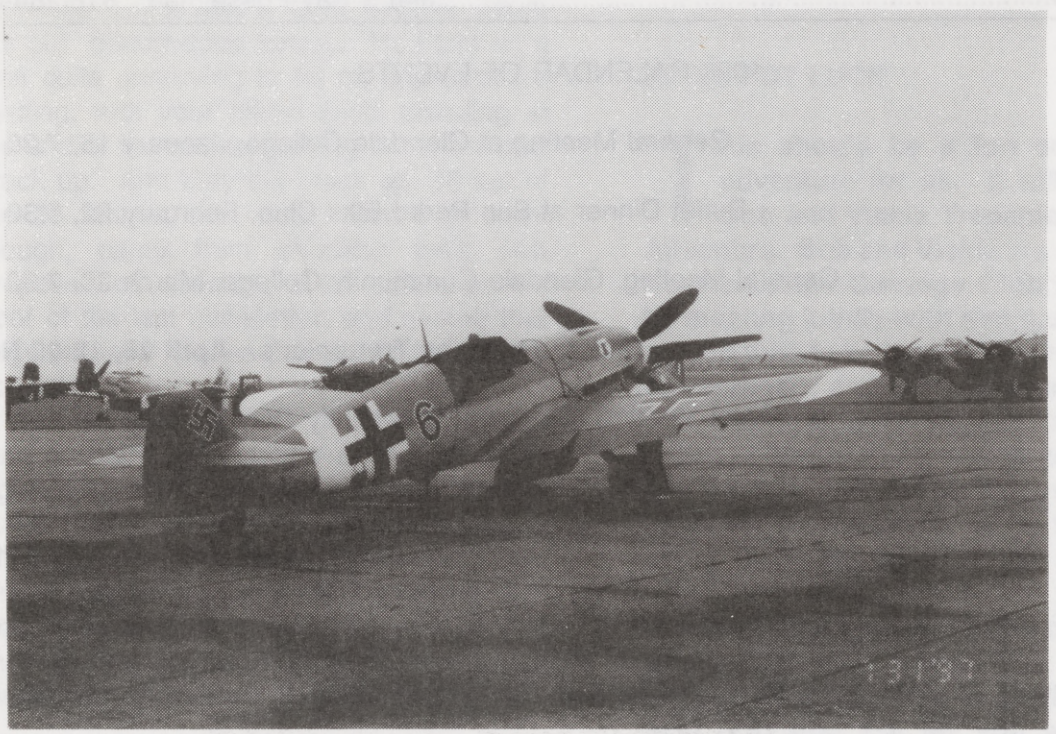
GENERAL MEETING
GLENDALE COLLEGE
MARCH 20, 7:30 PM

VAA Newsletter

Vintage Aeroplane Association Of California, Inc.

President Connie Clark 310/835-2562 **Editor** Bill Mallory 805/389-2902

APRIL 1998



VAAC OFFICERS FOR 1998

President	Connie Clark	310/835-2562
Vice President	Don Armstrong	818/241-2425
Secretary	Elaine Forker	818/343-4478
Treasurer/Membership	Bill Mallory 1376 Saturn Ave., Camarillo, CA 93010	805/389-2902
Sergeant-at-Arms	Ceci Stratford	818/842-0005
Activities Committee	Connie Clark Jimmy Green Bill Mallory	
Newsletter Editor	Bill Mallory	
Cookie Chair	Don Armstrong	
Historians	Jim & Kay Fosselman	818/284-8642

1998 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January	General Meeting at Glendale College, January 16, 7:30 p.m.
February	Buffet Dinner at San Pedro Elks Club, February 22, 5:30 p.m.
March	General Meeting, Glendale Community College, March 20, 7:30 p.m.
April	**Pot Luck at the Trepanier's. April 26, 12:00 Noon.**
May	General Meeting, Glendale Community College, May 15, 7:30 p.m.
June	Pot Luck at the Fosselmans, June 14, 4:30 p.m.
July	Wings & Wheels, July 10, 11, 12
August	
September	General Meeting, Glendale Community College, September 18, 7:30 p.m.
October	Weenie Roast, SantaPaula Airport
November	General Meeting, Glendale Community College, November 20, 7:30 p.m.
December	Christmas Party, Proud Bird Restaurant, December 5, 6:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Our Speaker in March was Aaron Finkel, better known as "Red", who had quite a tale to tell. Red was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1941 as a "ground hog", as he described it. He didn't care for that idea at all and when he heard about the Flying School offer — he said he was the first guy at the door. He obviously made the grade since he flew P-47's and P-51's in WWII. He also stated that he had flown a B-26 Bomber. When asked when he flew the B-26, he said he had been a bad boy and had been assigned to towing banners for target practice. Regardless, he attained the rank of Captain in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

At a later date (1948) Red and his good friend Rudy both volunteered for the Israeli Air Force for $1.00 a day. They flew Me109's, the German airplane built in Czechoslovakia with a Jumo engine, which put out tremendous torque. Red told us it was quite unnerving to be on approach for landing, with your fellow pilots standing at the end of the runway betting on who would crack up. And they did crack up, 18 out of the 25 aircraft they had. Some of them though, came from shooting their own propellers off. Looking at the picture on the front of the last newsletter, and seeing that huge propeller makes you feel that would be possible.

One of their enemies at the time were the Egyptians, who had a large army including tanks. For some reason they all stopped at a bridge, only 18 miles from Tel Aviv. Four Israeli Aircraft went out for the attack, and Red said as usual, guns jammed, one pilot shot his own propeller off, but they stopped the army.

This rag-tag volunteer Army was quite successful, despite the poor equipment, or even the lack thereof. Red's description of how the transport pilots dropped bombs was quite something. They opened the cargo door and one guy was strapped-in in such a manner that he braced himself with his feet and hung out the door. The fellow inside pulled the pin on the bomb while the guy outside pulled the bomb out and dropped it. One fellow pulled 5 pins out, but sudden flak and turbulence had the bombs rolling around inside the airplane. Fortunately they got everything under control.

As I have mentioned previously, I pass on this info for those of you who live too far away to come to the meetings. Not for those of you like John Underwood and Marc Herman, who live close, and we miss seeing! And I can't possibly include all the stories that Red told us. He could certainly spin a tale. A lot of history there that most people have never heard about.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our Pot Luck on April 26. You don't want to miss this one. See you there.

APRIL POT LUCK

This should be a fun and different adventure for us. It will be held at Bob and Vickie Trepanier's home in Alhambra. Bob and Vickie are members of the Horseless Carriage Club and we will be meeting jointly with that group. This is a good time to wear our badges, and try to encourage any Horseless Carriage member who isn't already planning on going to Wings 'N Wheels to come up and join us this year. It is always special to have these wonderful cars to see and enjoy — and perhaps ride in.

Bob and Vickie have quite a collection of practically everything, but especially antique bicycles. Try to get in on a tour with Bob who will tell you what was in what movie, or the history of these items.

The date is Sunday, April 26 at Noon. The address is 109 S. Hildago Ave., Alhambra.

We are starting early in the day so we will have time to eat, visit, see the collection and perhaps have some rides in the antique vehicles. Of course we do this at Wings 'N Wheels, but the setting will be different. Also, Bob owns several really old busses. It would indeed be fun to ride in one of these.

Please R.S.V.P. to Connie Clark at (310) 835-2562, and let her know what you will be bringing.

FRANK VRANICAR AND THE BOMB SQUAD

We have previously written about the problems Frank had at the Cable Air Show concerning his mock hand grenades and the Bomb Squad. Frank protested this action in a letter and also in an article in the Pacific Flyer. Perhaps some of you have already heard of the outcome. At the Chino Airshow, the head of the Bomb Squad came up to Frank, called to the crowd to come close, and then returned the hand grenades and apologized to Frank. He was also given an official letter of apology and the personal business card of this official.

However, the Vendor who also had mock hand grenades confiscated at Cable has been charged with a felony and has made one Court appearance so far. The hopes are that Frank Vranicar's letter of apology will help in this case too. It is rather scary what could happen to you by laws passed that no one know about. (Connie Clark)

PERHAPS A FUTURE FLY-IN?

Mike Walsh and his big White Stearman have been quite busy doing Airshows and teaching formation flying classes. You need to be certified in formation flying now if you want to be involved in formation flying at Airshows. The latest group of aircraft in Mikes class were some T-6's, and L-Bird and a YAK. One of the guys in this group was Bill Allen from Gillespie Field. Bill has a huge hangar and several very interesting aircraft. Mike is going to try to arrange a fly-in at Bills hangar in the coming months, we will keep you posted. Sounds great. (Connie Clark)

WINGS 'N WHEELS

The Solvang Theater this year will have an Agatha Christie Murder Mystery, "10 Little Indians". It is about 10 people invited to a mansion for dinner, but due to weather problems (I think it is) no one can leave, and then people start being murdered one by one. I did read the book but I have forgotten the ending. (Wouldn't tell anyway). If you are interested in this for Friday evening, the phone number is (800) 549-7272.

Regarding car rentals, I have found out that most of you reserved your cars already last year. There were only 3 cars left when I called this year. If you would like to rent a car, give Fran or Heidi a call at Alpha Car Rental, (805) 688-2574 and see if there are any left. I believe they also have a waiting list for cancellations.

Andersons Motel, or Pea Soup Andersons, in Buelton, has reserved a block of rooms for our group at a discounted rate of $60.00 per room. The reservation number is 1-800-PEA-SOUP. Be sure to tell them you are with Wings 'N Wheels. This is a good alternative to Motel 6, who over-book and do not honor your reservation. Those making early reservations at Andersons will have a better choice of rooms.

And please remember, we have grown so large that we ask you not to invite any more car clubs to this event. (Connie Clark)

FROM THE EDITOR

Another aviation great has passed on. Hans von Ohain, an independent co-inventor of the jet engine died in Melbourne, Florida on March 11. He was 86. Von Ohain, born in Germany in 1911, became interested in the concept of jet propulsion as an extra-curricular activity in 1933 while a graduate student in physics. Von Ohain went to work for Ernst Heinkel in 1936. Less than a year later, he had a hydrogen-powered version of the gas turbine running. A flightworthy engine, the HeS.3B followed in 1939, and was installed in a Heinkel 178 aircraft. Unbeknownst to Heinkel, the British also were pursuing jet propulsion in the person of Frank Whittle. Von Ohain worked for Heinkel throughout the war. After the surrender of Germany he was a consultant to the U.S. Navy. In 1947 he was invited to the U.S. and assigned to the then Wright Field. He worked for the Air Force for 32 years, becoming the chief scientist of the Aerospace Research Laboratory in 1963. He retired from civil service in 1979, and became a professor at the University of Dayton Research Institute. What an interesting life!

In Connie's message, she mentions passing on the information from the general meetings. I have watched her at the meetings taking notes at a frantic pace so she can pass on to the members not in attendance the general idea of the speakers presentation. She deserves a round of applause and our thanks for the job well done. Thanks Connie.

Now — there are some of you that still have not sent in your dues. I have marked your address label with an asterisk, one for each year you are behind. Also, the label has the expiration date on it. I don't want to be pressing anyone, but if we are to stay in business as the VAA we need your support. Remember, $10.00 per couple for one year.

Also, we hope to have the registration form for Wings and Wheels in the next newsletter. When you receive it, please be prompt in filling it out as Keith Smith wants to get the process done as quickly as possible.

There are going to be some really exciting air shows and displays coming up in the next few months. I will try and keep you aware of all of the ones in the local area. The first one is Pt. Mugu on April 25 and 26.

COMING EVENTS

We will have a very interesting and unique speaker at the general meeting in May at Glendale College. I know you won't want to miss this one. More in the next newsletter.

BADGES

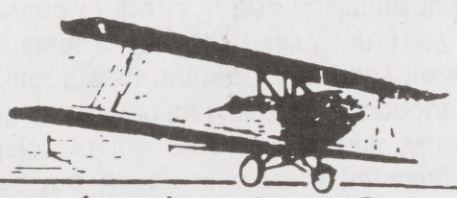
I have been listing the phone number of Dick Beagle the badge maker incorrectly for some time now. His correct phone number is **(714) 670-1878.** (I want to thank John Clark for finding the error). Badges are $5.00 each and can be obtained from:

Dick Beagle
Buena Park, CA 90621

At the above phone number.

COVER PHOTO

Me109 at Duxford England. This is the one referred to as "Black 6". This was taken at the dedication of the American Air Museum in England and the aircraft has since crashed but will be rebuilt. Compare the propeller on this to the Czech version shown on the cover of the March letter.



Vintage Aeroplane Association Of Califonia Inc.

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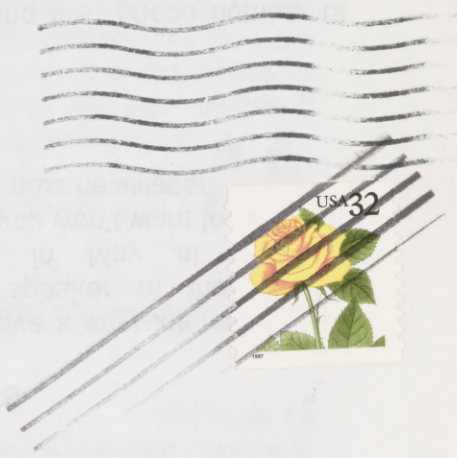

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Dated Material

Mrs. Maggie Davis Life
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